Not insignificant

also is the catch of seals (Phoca sivirica), which are preserved in large 225.
numbers in Lake Baykal.

Of much greater importance, however, is the fishing in the 226
rest of the Far Eastern region. For the economy of the natives it not uncommonly constitutes the sole or at least the principal source of food. But the Russian settler, too, would not like to miss fish on his menu. Thus everywhere in the Far Eastern region where even a brook extends through the land we find the occupants occupying themselves with supplementing their food needs by fishing. In this the historical development also plays a certain role, for the first Russian settlers found one of the principal sources of food in catching fish. And nature has blessed the entire area with lakes and rives rich in fish. In addition there is the fact that off the entire coast of the Far Eastern region there stretch seas which are likewise exceedingly rich in fish and which belong to the most important fishing grounds on the earth. Year after year innumerable types of salmon in vast numbers come from the sea for the spawning period and go up the rivers and often far into the land, where men wait for them in order to provide nourishment for themselves and for their animals, not only temporarily but also often for the entire year. For the bulk of the coast of the north fishing constitutes /134/ absolutely the sole basis of existence for man. If the coastal strip far into the north is inhabited, this is above all due to the sea and its abundance of fish and sea animals.

The wealth of fish and sea animals of all kinds in the peripheral 228
seas has, through fishing for self-supply by the population on the coast and inland, led to the development of industrially run coastal and high sea fishing, which has become the leading branch of the economy in the Far Eastern region. Through the creation of a state fishing fleet and the equipment of this fleet with modern motorboats, trawlers, and special ships for catching crabs/shrimp and whales, the Far Eastern region by 1938 had won first place within the Soviet Union in terms of its catch. More than a fourth of the total catch of fish and of the canned fish goods in the Soviet Union comes from the Far East.

Catch of Fish in the Far Eastern Region

1913	107,330 tons
1928	161,820 tons
1932	346,800 tons
1937	404,800 tons

smaller forests appear, and then mostly with badly gown and crippled trees. 137

Permanent settlements exist only on the coast and those are mostly on the Bering Sea. In them live the Maritime Chukchee who devote themselves to the catching of fish and sea animals, and in some villages there are also Eskimo. The sections of the sea near the coast of the Chukchi Peninsula are especially rich in walruses, which are among the main animals hunted here. There are no larger localities. Except for officials, no Russians remain here permanently. The interior of the peninsula is occupied by Reindeer Chukchee, a powerful people, capable of resistance, who own great herds and who are depicted as excellent in the breeding of reindeer. However, because of their small number the general density of population is very low and reaches only approximately 0.03 per square kilometer, and thus one can traverse great stretches without encountering a man. Very recently exploration has uncovered valuable natural resources in numerous places. Thus, iron ore, copper, mine gold, graphite, molybdenum, and also hard coal have been found. Hard coal outcroppings are known directly on the coast of Mechigmenskaya Bay and also in the environs of Cape Serdtse-Kamen'. Pieces of hard coal of excellent quality were also found by Chukchee in the interior. /292/ The greatest part of the natural resources determined to date lie on the east coast, since this alone has to date undergone a more exact investigation. The findings to date permit one to assume, on the basis of the same geological structure, that there are more deposits, and thus in them perhaps one side of the future development of the Chukchi Peninsula is indicated.

361 563 [225] [161] 135

The Anadyr' region lies south of the Chukchi Peninsula and is bordered on the west by the Anadyr' Plateau and on the south by the Koryak Mountain Range. The central part of this region is taken up by an extensive depression, which is filled with Cretaceous and Tertiary deposits. For the most part this depression is completely level, but it is not unified, for from the north as from the south mountain ranges project into the depression or rise directly from the plain. To the south of the Anadyr', east of its tributary the Mayn are the Alganskye Mountains, which are up to 500 meters high. The course of all these mountain chains and mountain ridges has still been very little explored in detail. 133

The Anadyr' comes down from the plateau of the same name, and in its upper course, where it is up to 170 meters wide, it has the

The coasts are rocky and steep and are torn up into adventurous, picturesque forms by the heavy breakers. Thus the coasts project a romantic-dim picture in the fog. Thousands of birds make their home on the rocks. 133

The Commander Islands have become famous for the catching of sea otters (seals) there, but this wealth is almost completely destroyed today. The 600 inhabitants, which consist of a mixture of Aleuts, Russians, Eskimos, Kurils, etc., live almost exclusively from what the sea offers them. On the land itself foxes are hunted. 225 161 224

The Kurils

The island garland of the Kurils came to the Soviet Union after the end of World War II. These islands are not too well known, and therefore somewhat more space is to be devoted to them. 133

The Kurils, along with Hokkaido and Kamchatka, form the most northerly arc of the outer frame of the east Asiatic continent. The Kurils represent a connection between the volcanic massif of Hokkaido Island and the volcanos of Kamchatka. To the island chain belong 36 islands which are larger in terms of area, 20 smaller islands, and many uninhabitable rocks, which often barely project from the sea. According to the local division of the islands, the Kurils can be divided into a 1,200 kilometer long main chain, which begins in the north with Shimushu Island and ends with Kunashiri Island off Hokkaido, and into a second, parallel chain, which, however, is only approximately 100 kilometers long. This shorter chain begins at Hokkaido with Nemuro Island, stops with Shikotan Island, and lies east of the main chain. The entire area of the Kurils is given at 15,600 square kilometers, of which 40 percent is on the four largest islands, namely Etorofu, Paramushiru, Kunashiri, and Uruppu. The most northerly island in the chain, whose name is Araito, lies under 50° 56' N latitude, while the most sourtherly lies under 43° 26' N. The Kurils, therefore, lie approximately at the latitude between Leningrad and Burgas in Bulgaria.

/304/ The understructure of the Kurils rises like a mountain ridge from the floor of the sea, whose highest parts project beyond the surface of the water as islands. The slope of this submarine ridge has various forms. Toward the Sea of Okhotsk it declines relatively steeply to a depth of 3,000 meters (the greatest depth is 3,374 meters). The slope toward the Pacific is bigger, for here the Kuril deep sea

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The greatest part of the population was concentrated on the southern islands, where limited cultivation of rye, wheat, barley and types of vegetables is possible. The principal occupations of the inhabitants--if we can judge from conditions before 1945--were, however, fishing and the hunting of sea mammals. Every summer the population was enlarged by around 10,000 fishermen, who came from Japan and occupied the islands for the catching season. In terms of the value of its yield, fishing was in first place by far, but the catching of walruses also played no insignificant role. The whales, after their summer stay in the Bering Sea, moved along the Kurils in the fall to their winter places in the southern part of the Sea of Okhotsk. In addition, seals and sea lions were also hunted.

After the islands were taken over by the Soviet Union and the greater part of the Japanese had been evacuated, numerous central fishing stations were founded on the islands. Furthermore, a walrus-catching fleet was stationed there, and a walrus-processing works was erected on one island. It is also planned to take up the breeding of fur-bearing animals such as the Japanese had begun.

Because of their volcanic character, the Kurils have numerous hot springs, which for the most part contain minerals. In natural resources the Kurils are poor; only a few of the islands contain rather large sulfur deposits. Exploitation of these deposits for the Soviet economy is being considered.

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